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Commission on the Status of Women
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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters

Botswana:*, draft resolution**

Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[1] and the outcomes of its reviews, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[2] the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[3] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[4] key actions for its further implementation and the outcomes of its reviews, the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[5] the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[6] the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS,[7] Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 on women and peace and security, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[8]

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Southern African Development Community.

** In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[3] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[4] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[6] General Assembly resolution 48/104.

[7] General Assembly resolution 65/277, annex.

[8] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

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including the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular the resolve of Member States to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030,

Noting with deep concern that the global HIV epidemic disproportionately affects women and girls, and acknowledging the progress achieved in the realization of Goal 6 of the Millennium Development Goals as regards halting and reversing the spread of HIV, where the global response to HIV has averted millions of new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths since 2000, when the Goals were set,

Recognizing the need to intensify efforts to end the AIDS epidemic through fast-tracking the HIV response across the prevention and treatment continuum, including in the context of the "90-90-90" targets of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, and acknowledging the specific vulnerabilities of adolescent and young girls and women due to, inter alia, unequal power relations in society between women and men and boys and girls,

Acknowledging that prevention, treatment, care and support for people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS are mutually reinforcing elements of an effective response that must be integrated into a comprehensive multisectoral gender-responsive approach to end the AIDS epidemic,

Noting with concern that regulations, policies and practices, including those that limit the legitimate trade of generic medicines, may seriously limit access to affordable HIV treatment and other pharmaceutical products in low- and middle-income countries, recognizing that improvements can be made through, inter alia, national legislation, regulatory policy and supply chain management, and noting that reductions in barriers to affordable products could be explored in order to expand access to affordable and good-quality HIV prevention products, diagnostics, medicine and treatment commodities for HIV, including for opportunistic infections and co-infections,

Stressing that gender equality and the civil, political, economic, social and cultural empowerment of women and girls, as well as the enjoyment of their full and equal human rights and fundamental freedoms, are fundamental in the eradication of poverty and the achievement of sustainable development,

Stressing also that the lack of respect, protection, promotion and fulfilment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, and insufficient access to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in accordance with the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences, aggravates the impact of the AIDS epidemic, especially among women and girls, increasing their vulnerability and endangering the survival of present and future generations,

Recognizing that children and adolescents are more likely to be lost to care, that children and adolescents on antiretroviral medication are less likely than adults to reach viral load suppression and that there are many challenges in diagnosing and treating infants, children and adolescents,

Stressing the value and importance of social protection for the most vulnerable, and of achieving universal health coverage that comprises universal and equitable access to quality health services and ensures affordable and quality service

delivery to people living with HIV, including women and children, and making sure that universal health coverage also promotes HIV/AIDS responses,

Recognizing that over 13.3 million children have lost one or both parents to HIV and AIDS, that those children have complex needs pertaining to protection, care and support and that they may be at increased risk of infection, as well as at increased risk of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of Member States and the United Nations system to end all forms of violence against women and children, in particular the girl child, including the Secretary-General's campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" and the "HeForShe" campaign,

Deeply concerned that all forms of violence against women and girls, discrimination and harmful practices are key contributing factors to the spread of HIV among women and girls,

Deeply concerned also by the increased vulnerability to HIV infection faced by women and girls living with disabilities resulting from, inter alia, legal and economic inequalities, sexual and gender-based violence, discrimination and violations of their rights,

Noting with concern that populations destabilized by armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, internally displaced persons and refugees, in particular women and children, especially girls, are at increased risk of HIV infection,

Recognizing that women and girls are more vulnerable to HIV infection and that they bear a disproportionate burden of the impact of the HIV and AIDS epidemic, including the care of and support for those living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, and that this negatively affects the enjoyment of their human rights, including the right to health,

Recognizing also that access to quality education and information and the retention of girls in school are a critical element in the prevention of HIV infection among women and girls,

Acknowledging the leadership of Governments, in cooperation with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS and other specialized agencies and the international donor community and financing mechanisms, including the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, in increasing domestic and international resources to support programmes that promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls to address HIV and AIDS,

Welcoming the leadership and commitment shown in all aspects of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, including the HIV and AIDS response, by Governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and people living with HIV, including through the African Union Road Map on Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Response in Africa,

1. *Calls upon* Governments, international partners and civil society to give full attention to the high levels of new HIV infections among young women and adolescent girls and their root causes, bearing in mind that women and girls are physiologically more vulnerable to HIV, especially at an earlier age, than men and

boys, and that this is increased by discrimination and all forms of violence against women, girls and adolescents, including sexual exploitation and harmful practices;

2. *Calls upon* Member States to intensify efforts in attaining gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in all spheres of life, recognizing that structural gender inequalities, discrimination, violence against women and girls and harmful masculinities undermine effective HIV responses and the enjoyment of full and equal human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls;

3. *Calls upon* all Governments to enact and intensify the implementation of laws, policies and strategies to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination against women and girls in the public and private spheres and harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation and trafficking in persons, and ensure the full engagement of men and boys in order to reduce women and girls' vulnerability to HIV;

4. *Also calls upon* all Governments to intensify efforts to reduce the particularly high levels of HIV infection among women and girls at higher risk by reducing barriers to their participation in HIV prevention and care where possible, as well as removing barriers to their full participation in society, and by addressing practices such as trafficking in persons that contribute to HIV risk and social marginalization of women and girls;

5. *Further calls upon* all Governments to ensure a just and equitable world for women and girls, including through partnering with men and boys, as an important strategy for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

6. *Calls upon* all Governments to promote universal health coverage, which implies that all people have equal access, without discrimination of any kind, to nationally determined sets of quality promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative basic health services needed and to essential, safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines, especially through the promotion of primary health care, while ensuring that the use of those services does not expose the users to financial hardship, with a specific emphasis on women, children and the poor, vulnerable and marginalized segments of the population;

7. *Urges* Member States to adopt and implement measures that promote access to, retention in and the completion of education by girls, including catch-up and literacy education for those who did not receive formal education, and special initiatives for keeping girls in school through post-primary education, including those who are already married or pregnant or caring for people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS, and adopt social protection measures as protective strategies to reduce new HIV infections among young women and girls;

8. *Calls upon* Member States to address gender-based HIV-related stigma and discrimination against and among women and girls, so as to ensure the dignity, rights and privacy of women and girls living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, including in education, training and informal education and the workplace;

9. *Also calls upon* Member States to recognize women's contribution to the economy and their active participation in caring for people living with HIV and AIDS and to recognize, reduce, redistribute and value women's unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure, the

promotion of equal sharing of responsibilities with men and boys and social protection targeted at women and girls who are vulnerable;

10. *Appeals* to Governments and the international community to accelerate efforts to scale up age-appropriate and culturally sensitive comprehensive education on sexual and reproductive health and HIV prevention for adolescent girls and boys and young women and men and the delivery of youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health-care services;

11. *Calls upon* Governments to take concrete long-term measures to achieve universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention, programmes, treatment, care and support to all women and girls and to remove all barriers to achieving universal health coverage and improve access to integrated sexual and reproductive health-care services, information, voluntary counselling and testing and commodities while building the capacity of adolescent girls and boys and young women and men to protect themselves from HIV infection and enabling their use of available commodities, including female and male condoms, post-exposure prophylaxis and pre-exposure prophylaxis while seeking to avoid risk-taking behaviour and encouraging responsible sexual behaviour;

12. *Commits* to remove, before 2030, obstacles that limit the capacity of low- and middle-income countries to provide affordable and effective HIV prevention and treatment products, diagnostics, medicines and commodities and other pharmaceutical products, as well as treatment for opportunistic infections and co-infections, and to reduce costs associated with lifelong chronic care, including by amending national laws and regulations, so as to optimize the use, to the full extent, of existing flexibilities under the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) specifically geared to promoting access to and trade in medicines, and, while recognizing the importance of the intellectual property rights regime in contributing to a more effective AIDS response, ensure that intellectual property rights provisions in trade agreements do not undermine these existing flexibilities, as confirmed in the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, and call for early acceptance of the amendment to article 31 of the TRIPS Agreement adopted by the General Council of the World Trade Organization in its decision of 6 December 2005;

13. *Calls upon* Governments and stakeholders to uphold commitments to eliminate mother-to-child transmission and keep mothers alive, including through integrating HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, including confidential voluntary counselling and testing and elimination of mother-to-child/vertical transmission, with other primary health-care services, especially sexual and reproductive health-care services, and through means to prevent new infections among women and adolescent girls of reproductive age and the provision of sexual and reproductive health-care services and lifelong antiretroviral medication for women and girls living with HIV;

14. *Also calls upon* Governments and stakeholders to intensify combination prevention initiatives for women and girls for the prevention of new infections and to reverse the spread of HIV and reduce maternal mortality;

15. *Urges* Governments and stakeholders to address the increased vulnerability to HIV faced by older women and women and girls with disabilities,

ensuring their equal access to prevention, treatment, care and support, as an integral part of their HIV and AIDS response;

16. *Stresses* the importance of Governments, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other United Nations funds and programmes and specialized agencies developing and implementing strategies to improve infant HIV diagnosis, including through access to diagnostics at the point of care, significantly increasing and improving access to treatment for children and adolescents living with HIV, including access to prophylaxis and treatments for opportunistic infections and promoting a smooth transition from paediatric to adult treatment and related support and services, while taking into account the need to put in place programmes focused on delivering services to HIV-negative children born to women living with HIV, as they are still at high risk of morbidity and mortality, and to develop actions to limit post-delivery transmission through breastfeeding, through the provision of information and education;

17. *Calls upon* Governments and stakeholders to prioritize gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in all policies and programmes related to populations destabilized by armed conflict, including refugees and internally displaced persons, in particular women and children, who are at increased risk of HIV infection;

18. *Urges* Governments to increase political commitment and domestic financing to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls through national HIV and AIDS responses targeting women and girls that respect, promote and protect the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for women and girls, including in the context of the HIV epidemic, and promote equal economic opportunities and decent work for women and girls;

19. *Also urges* Governments to promote the active and meaningful participation, contribution and leadership of women and girls living with HIV, civil society actors, the private sector and youth and women's organizations in addressing the problem of HIV and AIDS in all its aspects, including promoting a gender-responsive approach to the national responses;

20. *Requests* Governments, the private sector, the international donor community and funds and programmes of the United Nations and specialized agencies to intensify financial and technical support to national efforts to end AIDS and achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, focused on women and girls affected by the HIV and AIDS epidemic, and to also intensify financial and technical support to mainstreaming gender and human rights perspectives in policies, planning, programmes, monitoring and evaluation;

21. *Requests* Governments to avail of comprehensive data disaggregated by age and sex to inform a targeted response to the gender dimensions of HIV and AIDS;

22. *Stresses* the importance of building up national competence and capacity to provide an assessment of the drivers and impact of the epidemic, which should be used in HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support and for mitigating the impact of HIV and AIDS;

23. *Encourages* the international community and research institutions to support action-oriented research on gender and HIV and AIDS, including on female-controlled prevention commodities;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution to the sixty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women.